Tim's Talking Points
Bimonthly Meeting with the SWRCB
1 FEB 2013
Bay Delta Update 10:00-10:20

Bay Delta Team

❖ Tim replaced Karen and looks to build upon her 17 years of work.
❖ Bruce retired Wednesday, and we wish to recruit a fish biologist who can support our regulatory and non-regulatory work in the Delta and other priority watersheds.
❖ Core Bay Delta Team: Sam (supervisor), Tom (Assistant RC), Erin (WQCP, contaminants, policy), Valentina (WQCP, SJR basin, agriculture), and Stephanie (NEPA review).

Water Quality Control Plan

❖ Seeking strong relationship with the State Board "across the board"; from the technical ranks through the senior level decision-makers.
❖ We want to understand and support the State's actions, and be clear where we may disagree.
❖ Our goal: ensure the protection of the most sensitive beneficial uses.
❖ Les G. did a nice job fielding questions during a freshwater flow seminar staged by CABA.[1]

Regional Water Board (Central Valley) and the Delta RMP.

❖ Design a program that supports decisions and informs the prioritization of actions intended to protect, and where necessary, restore beneficial uses of water in the Delta.

EPA's contribution s toward achieving TMDLs for MeHg in the Delta

❖ Support for USGS and DWR on surface water treatment technologies on Twitchell Island that can also help reverse subsidence (Carbon Farm), sequester GHGs, and entomb mercury.
❖ Support for Good Samaritan cleanup of the Corona-Twin Peaks mines by Tuleyome.

[1] Key points made during CABA seminar:

a. Several scientists noted the importance of providing for the full amplitude of selected flood events within the regulatory context (especially the "first flush" in fall).
b. C. Enright explained distinctions b/w estimating UIF using the "rim reservoir" approach vs. Central Valley flows. The former provides consistency with the "8-river index", while the latter seriously underestimates UIF. SFEI's presentation on historical ecology raised concerns that both conventional approaches to UIF might be significantly underestimating historical flow volumes.
c. Dr. Petts explained that sufficient flows on large rivers are important for establishing chemical cues and migratory corridors, and while they might be treated as agricultural drains and navigational routes, it's important to protect WQ on them even if habitat cannot be restored. Consistent with this approach, there's an urgent need to protect and restore the watersheds of tributaries to the big rivers.